

[22 February, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

Improvement in disaster management set up

95. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that natural calamities like landslides, cyclones, floods and earthquakes have become a regular event in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to improve disaster management set up to minimise the damage of lives and properties before the event; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Due to its geographical features, the country is vulnerable to number of natural disaster like cyclone, floods and earthquake. There is not a single year when the country had not faced one disaster or the other. Institutional arrangements exist at the National, State and District level for management of natural disasters. There is always room for improvement in the administrative response based on lessons learnt from the previous experiences.

A Central Sector Scheme is being implemented *inter-alia* for human resource development, research and consultancy services, documentation of major events listing out short-comings and suggestions for improvement as lessons for future events, public education and community participation etc.

A National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up by the Government of India on 13th February, 2001 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister having *inter-alia* Presidents of the National and State Level Political Parties as its members. The National Committee will *inter-alia*: deliberate on the necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in the future.